

Appl. No. 09/189,099  
Amdt. Dated October 13, 2005  
Reply to Office action of July 14, 2005  
Attorney Docket No. P09713-US1  
EUS/J/P/05-3252

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

#### **Claim Amendments**

The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18; claims 3 and 20 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-19 and 21-27 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 12-17.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 3, 5, 7-10, 20, 22-26. Claims 3 and 20 have been canceled and the limitations of these claims have been incorporated in the respective independent claims 1 and 18. No amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

#### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 18, 19, 21 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai in view of Kojima. In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled the claims 3 and 20 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot. The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 18 to include the allowable limitations of claims 3 and 20 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

With respect to amended independent claims 1 and 18, the Applicant respectfully submits that both independent claims contain allowable subject matter. The respective dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 11, 19, 21 and 27 now contain the same allowable subject matter. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 18, 19, 21 and 17.

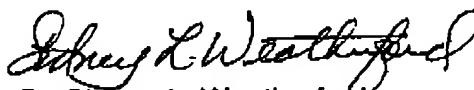
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### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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